

**MINUTES OF A PUBLIC HEARING HELD BEFORE THE
COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JASPER, INDIANA
OCTOBER 20, 2010**

A public hearing was held on Wednesday, October 20, 2010, in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 610 Main Street, Jasper, Indiana.

Call to Order. Presiding Officer Mayor William J. Schmitt called the hearing to order at 6:30 p.m.

Roll Call.

Mayor William J. Schmitt	Present
Council members:	
John Schroeder	Present
David Prechtel	Present
Thomas Schmidt	Present
Ambrose 'Butch' Schitter	Present
Kevin Manley	Present
Randall Buchta	Present
Raymond Howard	Present
City Attorney Sandra Hemmerlein	Present
Clerk-Treasurer Juanita S. Boehm	Present

Clerk-Treasurer Juanita Boehm announced that in order to have a quorum for the hearing, a majority of the council members must be in attendance. All council members were in attendance; therefore, there was a quorum for the hearing.

Pledge. Mayor Schmitt invited those present to join him in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Purpose. Mayor Schmitt said the purpose of the public hearing is to provide interested parties an opportunity to express their views on the proposed federally funded CDBG wastewater improvement project.

Notice appeared in the Herald on October 9, 2010. It was also posted at City Hall and faxed to the news media.

Mayor Schmitt asked Lisa Gehlhausen, Executive Director of Indiana 15 Regional Planning Commission, to give an overview of the project. Gehlhausen said the City of Jasper intends to apply for a Community Focus Fund grant which is due October 22, 2010. The City is requesting a \$600,000 grant from the Housing and Urban Development [HUD], through the Community Development Block Grant Program. The City's share is \$186,365. The City will hear on December 10 whether or not they were awarded these funds. The purpose of the project is for wastewater improvements to the Skyline and Fairway Park subdivisions.

Ed Hollinden, Manager of the Wastewater Utility, displayed an aerial photo of the project area and explained what the project entails. Following the explanation, Hollinden encouraged the residents in the project area to tell us if they have or had any sanitary sewage issues such as slow drains or backed up drains and any costs associated with fixing those problems.

Ambrose Hoffman, 2392 Mill Street, said about ten years ago his line was slow and he had to call in a plumber to replace the old clay pipe that cost about \$1,000.00.

Mayor Schmitt asked what the plan is if the City does not get this funding for the project. Hollinden said the Utility budget allows \$100,000 annually for sewer relining. The total project cost is approximately \$800,000 so if the annual budgeted amount went solely towards this project, it would take eight years to do all the work we would like to do. With this grant, the project can be done in three months.

Mayor Schmitt asked if there were any other comments from the public.

Hollinden then thanked the people in the project area who came to this hearing for supporting the project.

Lisa Gehlhausen then sought the adoption of a resolution to submit the application, allows the Mayor to sign all necessary documentation, and commits to a local match of \$186,365.00. The local match will be derived from Wastewater funds \$177,461.58, Program Income funds \$403.42, and in-kind engineering services valued at \$8,500.00, which totals \$186,365.00.

Gehlhausen said the Community Focus Fund has two rounds per year. If this grant does not get funded we would have a visit from the Office of Community and Rural Affairs to discuss where you scored well, and where scores can be increased if necessary. Conceivably if that happens, the City could send the project back in with proposals due in January and applications due in April. This can continue to be a priority of the City. Mayor Schmitt asked, "We are also asking the Office of Community and Rural Affairs for funds for the Beaver Lake Dam Project. Are these two grants in competition or are they coming from separate funding?" Gehlhausen responded, "The Beaver Lake Dam Project is coming from the Dams and Levees Program and the Wastewater Project is coming from Community Focus Funds Infrastructure which are two separate programs. This is not a problem. We understand that approximately 53 applications have been submitted and about a dozen will get funded. It is a competitive program." Council member John Schroeder asked "Does it help that the project area is low income?" Gehlhausen responded "Yes. There are 151 households and 333 persons in the project area. Seventy-one and three tenths percent (71.3%) is low to moderate income. To qualify for this program you have to be 51%, therefore 71.3 is a high LMI percentage and you get points for this. Points are also factored in by the distress of the county; you can obtain more points for more local match. You can obtain more points with Philanthropic or Dubois County Community Foundation funding. Mayor Schmitt said "We did

consider the Dubois County Community Foundation, but the timing of their grant applications did not work with the timing of the CFF grant."

Mayor Schmitt again asked if there were any comments from the public. No further comments were received.

Thereafter, a **motion** was made by Council member Thomas Schmidt and seconded by Council member David Prechtel to close the public hearing. The motion carried 7-0 and the hearing closed at 6:47 p.m.

The minutes were hereby approved with _____ without X corrections or clarification this 17th day of November, 2010.

Mayor William J. Schmitt
Presiding Officer

Attest:

Juanita S. Boehm, Clerk-Treasurer

Margaret A. Kress, Recording Secretary